

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD
MAY 27, 2008

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 6:42 p.m. Board members present were Chair Jason Hurley, Vice-Chair Jacque Daniels, Greg Hoover and Julie Aitken. Also present were Program Manager Phillip Holste, Frank Suriano, Administrative Assistant Chief, Fire Department, Lieutenant Anthony Vitale, Police Department, Planner Ingrid Allen and Board Secretary Janet Gale recording the meeting. Councilmember Starkey was absent.

2. SELECTION OF CHAIR

Chair Hurley nominated Ms. Aitken as Chair, seconded by Vice-Chair Daniels. As there were no other nominations, the nominations were closed. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 4-0)**

3. SELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Chair Aitken nominated Mr. Hurley as Vice-Chair, seconded by Ms. Daniels. As there were no other nominations, the nominations were closed. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 4-0)**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 25, 2008

Ms. Daniels indicated that the word “dairy” in paragraph 4 on page 2 should be deleted. She did not believe that was correct.

Ms. Daniels made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Hurley, to approve the minutes of March 25, 2008, with the necessary correction. In a voice vote, with Councilmember Starkey being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 4-0)**

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Town of Davie Comprehensive Plan Update – Iler Planning Group

Later in the meeting, Todd Miller, representing the Iler Planning Group, stated that his company was hired by the Town to amend the Town’s Comprehensive Plan based on the evaluation of an appraisal report that was completed in 2006. Mr. Miller explained that the evaluation appraisal was a report card indicating how the comprehensive plan was doing, had to be completed every five years, and was a requirement by the State. He added that the Comprehensive Plan ended based upon the recommendations of the Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR) which began in 2003 and ended in 2006. Mr. Miller explained that six public workshops and a scoping meeting were held to give an idea of the major issues confronting the Town. He indicated that the Town adopted the EAR process in April 2006 and the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) had approved the process in July 2006.

Mr. Miller explained that because of the time lag between 2006 and 2007 when the EAR-based amendment process to the Comprehensive Plan was adopted, four additional community workshops were held to get more public input and to ensure that nothing was missing. He added that the deadline to submit amendments to the Comprehensive Plan was July 11, 2008.

Mr. Miller highlighted the major issues from the EAR and the existing agricultural conditions. He explained that there was an agricultural land use category on the future land use map which would be maintained. Although there were no lands currently designated for agriculture on the map, Mr. Miller indicated that there were 1,400 acres of properties in land use that had agricultural designation by the Broward County Property Appraiser. He explained the future land use elements and highlighted the various policies that the Town was required to have in place. Mr. Miller spoke of the proposed policies which would be included in the plan, one was to protect farmlands and open space and one was to discourage urban sprawl.

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Tyler Chappell, representing the Chappell Group, discussed the new maps and spoke of the research that was conducted on the existing open space and land preservation parcels that were acquired through the County's bond. He explained that the land preservation program provided all the sites that were acquired through the bond. Additionally, he highlighted research that was conducted on all the environmental research permits that were issued in the Town to the South Florida Water Management District and various other agencies.

Mr. Chappell highlighted the various section of the maps adding that in addition to the wetlands, the open space and the land preservation areas, all water areas were also included. The bicycle and pedestrian pathways were updated to show new subdivisions as well as pathways that were not included previously; sidewalks were also included. On the equestrian trails maps, connectivity was shown between some of the open space and parks and how the trails and the parks could be utilized at the same time.

Mr. Chappell stated that he would like to meet with the Board sometime in the future to review the new trails as well as some of the hidden trails. He added that if the safety markers went forward as part of the Town initiative, the new maps would be helpful with the program.

Chair Aitken explained her definition of urban sprawl and asked Mr. Miller for his definition which he provided. Mr. Miller spoke of laws that were in place that required the infrastructure to be in place before the density. Ms. Allen commented that the future was about redevelopment and there was existing infrastructure in east Davie. She added that there was not much land in west Davie for development.

Following a brief discussion regarding details of the various maps, Jason Curtis remarked that the Board should be careful not to mix agricultural classification with agricultural zoning because they were different entities. He explained that most of the agricultural properties were not agriculturally classified, adding that classification and zoning were different legal issues.

5.2 Trail Issues – Assistant Chief Frank Suriano, Fire Department

5.3 Trail Issues – Program Manager, Phillip Holste

Chair Aitken explained that the Board wanted to find a way to assist recreational trail users to identify themselves better if they needed to make an emergency call and asked how the emergency system worked.

Assistant Chief Suriano explained that 911 calls were received in the Public Safety Building which was controlled by the Broward Sheriff's Office that dispatched police personnel or fire personnel depending on the nature of the call. He indicated that calls provided a numerical location of the caller; however, when calls were made from cell phones, it was difficult to pinpoint a location. Assistant Chief Suriano indicated that from the Town's point of view, a marking system on the trails would be the logical thing to do. He added that this was simple and would be a mile marker system similar to what was used on the Turnpike, and that would be correlated with the Fire Department's grid system. Assistant Chief Suriano advised that the Fire Department would work with the dispatchers at the Public Safety Building to make them aware that the Town had a marking system on the trails, and they would have to ask for that information when they received an emergency call. He added that this was the only way to notify the Fire and Police Departments. Police Lieutenant Tony Vitale agreed with Assistant Chief Suriano, adding that the markings should begin from the east as zero or one and work in a westerly direction.

Chair Aitken stated that the trails were named; however, the trail maps needed to be updated. This could be accomplished with the Open Space Advisory Committee and this Board working together. Chair Aitken questioned how the public would know to locate the markings. Lieutenant Vitale explained the location of the markings and provided an example of how the new markings could be accomplished. He explained that since the trails consisted of several hundred miles, they could be broken up into groups. Lieutenant Vitale indicated that the dispatch was the same; however, the Fire Department and the Police Department worked from different maps and once the trails were in place, copies could be placed in the

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Police Department's computer system. He added that if a new area was developed, they could be given an alpha numeric and a number system beginning from east to west. Assistant Chief Suriano agreed that an alpha numeric system would provide a geographical location based on the letter and the numeric would indicate the distance on the trail.

Lieutenant Vitale indicated that flyers indicating the new trail marking system could be distributed to the Trail Riders Association and at meetings. Assistant Chief Suriano indicated that public relations would be easier once this system was created because the information would be provided in the Davie Update, Davie and the Ranches and Davie TV through the Public Information Officer Braulio Rosa.

Mr. Curtis highlighted an instance when someone stated they were in Robbins Lodge and dispatch asked for an address. Assistant Chief Suriano indicated that this depended on the dispatcher and this was out of his control. However, once copies of the mapping system of the trails were created, copies would be provided to Broward Sheriff's Office.

Chair Aitken indicated that Councilmember Starkey had advised that providing mile markers would be too costly. She questioned if this could be accomplished by mapping alone. Lieutenant Vitale explained the difficulty when someone was unable to provide information as to their location, adding that he had no idea as to what the cost would be. Mr. Holste explained that houses already had addresses, and by not placing the markers in residential areas, the cost would be reduced. However, he had no idea what the cost would be.

Chair Aitken indicated the main concern was how to locate someone when they strayed off the main trail. Lieutenant Vitale commented that it should be kept in mind when placing the marking system that consideration be given to the type of markers.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the cost for the markers, safety concerns, and whether funds could be acquired through the bond issue. Mr. Holste advised that there was \$15,000,000 remaining in bond money.

Lieutenant Vitale advised that the marking system would have to be approved by the County because some of the trails were located on County property. He explained that when the parks closed at night, the Police Department did not have access to the property. Ms. Daniels indicated that there was an entrance to Tree Tops from the back of the property. Assistant Chief Suriano indicated that the first thing to do was to create a marking system for the trails and once that policy was created, alpha for geographical and numeric for the length of trails approval could be sought for the County parks and this could be accomplished in segments.

Following a brief discussion as to how the marking system could be accomplished, Mr. Holste suggested that the first step would be to identify the non-residential trails and obtain a cost estimate for each plaque. Lieutenant Vitale suggested contacting the Florida Department of Transportation to get the cost of markers that were on the Turnpike, and the name of the vendor. He also suggested contacting Home Depot to get the cost for the post and the Public Works Department to see how much it would cost to install the posts. Chair Aitken asked if the Town would do the research to find out the cost. Mr. Holste indicated that he would speak with his supervisor on the issue. He recommended that the Board make a motion. Ms. Daniels questioned if it was worthwhile pursuing the issue. Assistant Chief Suriano responded in the affirmative.

Vice-Chair Hurley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Daniels, that this Board request staff to do some research to find out the cost for the markers and the posts, and have the information ready for the next meeting with the Open Space Advisory Committee members next month. In addition, the Open Space Advisory Committee should be invited to the next meeting. In a voice vote, with Councilmember Starkey being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 4-0)**

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Following a brief discussion regarding the meeting dates, Mr. Holste indicated that the Open Space Advisory Committee would meet in July. Ms. Daniels commented that it was not necessary to meet with the entire open space committee. Chair Aitken suggested inviting the liaison and whichever Committee member was available.

6. OLD BUSINESS

6.1 Review Letter To Councilmembers Regarding Outstanding Board Issues

Vice-Chair Hurley explained that a letter should have been sent to each of the Councilmembers regarding the outstanding issues that the Board had worked on.

Copies of a memo submitted by Code Compliance Official Danny Stallone regarding the carcass removal was distributed to the Boardmembers by Board Secretary Gale.

Ms. Daniels questioned how the average person would know to contact large animal removal service. Chair Aitken explained that the information could be retrieved through a veterinarian. Ms. Daniels cited a situation of a dead horse being dumped on a property and although various government agencies were contacted, a week later the animal had not been removed.

A lengthy discussion ensued regarding responsibility for carcass disposal, the law and safety issues.

Vice-Chair Hurley questioned if the Board was seeking an opportunity to reconcile the ordinance that was drafted by this Board with the ordinance drafted by Mr. Stallone. Chair Aitken responded in the affirmative.

Vice-Chair Hurley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Daniels, that this Board recommend that Council hold action until such time that this Board had a chance to reconcile the ordinance that was originally put forward with the ordinance that Mr. Stallone had provided. He added that the Board would be forthcoming with a recommendation at one of its future meetings. In a voice vote, with Councilmember Starkey being absent, all voted in favor. **(Motion carried 4-0)**

Chair Aitken suggested that an invitation be extended to Mr. Stallone to attend the June meeting to discuss the carcass ordinance. The Board agreed.

7. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to be discussed

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

The following items were suggested for the June meeting:

1. Carcass Removal Ordinances
2. Review Letter to Councilmembers regarding outstanding Board issues
3. Discussion with Open Space Advisory Committee members regarding trail markers

9. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

There were no comments and/or suggestions made.

10. ADJOURNMENT

There being no objections and no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Date Approved

Chair/Board Member